CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A media terminal adaptor for use in a communication network adapted
to have a telephone connected thereto, said media terminal adaptor comprising:
        communication unit for connecting to a service provider provisioning server in
a normal mode when in a provisioned state;
        provisioning failure detector for detecting a non-operational status; and
        provisioning error message generator/player for generating and playing a
diagnostic message through said telephone indicative of the detected non-
provisioned status, when said telephone is taken off-hook.

2.   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said provisioning error
message generator/player comprises:
        a speech decoder for converting digital audio data to analog samples; and
        plain-old-telephone-service (POTS) endpoint circuitry for reconstructing the
analog samples and playing the reconstructed analog samples through said
telephone when off-hook.

3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said provisioning error
message generator/player generates audio messages and transfers said messages
to the telephone.

4.   The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising an off-hook
detector for detecting when said telephone is taken off hook.

5. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said POTS endpoint circuitry
and said off-hook detector monitor a hook state of said telephone and generate the
diagnostic message when an off-hook condition is detected when said telephone is
taken off-hook.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said diagnostic message
includes combined fixed voice audio with dynamically-generated voice audio.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said diagnostic message includes tones.

8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when operating in said normal mode, if said telephone is taken off-hook, dial tone is sent to said telephone.

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a provisioning error resolver for determining a resolution to the detected non-provisioned status wherein said diagnostic message is a function of said resolution.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising an electronic diagnostic and status information module adapted to be accessed by said telephone.

11.   A method of generating and playing diagnostic messages by a media terminal adaptor having a telephone connected thereto, the method comprising the steps of:
        detecting a non-provisioned status of said media terminal adaptor; and
        generating and playing a diagnostic message through said telephone indicative of the detected non-provisioned status, when said telephone is taken off-hook.

12.   The method according to claim 11, wherein the step of generating and playing includes the steps of:
        converting digital audio data to analog samples by a speed decoder;
        reconstructing by plain-old-telephone-service (POTS) endpoint circuitry the analog samples; and
        playing the reconstructed analog samples through said telephone by the POTS endpoint circuitry, when said telephone is taken off-hook.

13.   The method according to claim 12, wherein the step of generating and playing includes the steps of:
        generating audio messages by encapsulating audio in an real time protocol packet stream to emulate reception of data from a communications network, said packet stream comprises an ordered sequence of near-synchronous packets;

depacketizing said packet stream; and

sending the depacketized packet stream to the speech decoder.

14.   The method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of

5   detecting when said telephone is taken off hook.

15.   The method according to claim 11, wherein said diagnostic message includes combined fixed voice text with dynamically-generated voice text.

10   16.   The method according to claim 11, wherein said diagnostic message includes tones.

17.   The method according to claim 11, wherein the step of detecting said non-provisioned status includes the step of detecting an out-of-service status of said 15   media terminal adaptor.

18.   The method according to claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

determining a resolution to the detected non-provisioned status wherein said diagnostic message is a function of said resolution.

20

19.   The method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of:

accessing electronic diagnostic and status information by said telephone identified in said diagnostic message.

25   20.   The method according to claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

determining said media terminal adaptor is provisioned; and

sending a dial tone to said telephone when the telephone is taken off-hook.